

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 EA-11 ACDA-19 MBFR-03

GAC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 TRSE-00 /190 W

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P R 171611 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6554

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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DEPT PLS RPT AS DESIRED

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR OAU UN NO XA PO

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE UN/ OAU OSLO CONFERENCE

REFS: A) OSLO 1472, B) OSLO 1393 NOTAL, C) OSLO 1510 NOTAL

D) LISBON 1361 NOTAL

BEGIN SUMMARY. PARTICIPANTS IN LAST WEEK' S UN/ OAU CON-
FERENCE IN OSLO WERE UNIFORMLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ITS

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RESULTS. REACTION AMONG OTHERS IS MIXED AND PREDICTABLE; THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF HAVING THE UN AND THE OAU STAGE SUCH A CONFERENCE HERE ARE WAXING ELOQUENT ABOUT THE CONFERENCE RESULTS, WHILE THOSE WHO QUESTIONED THE UTILITY OF HAVING SUCH A GATHERING IN OSLO HAVE FOUND JUSTIFICATION IN THE CONFERENCE RESULTS FOR THEIR NEGATIVE JUDGMENT. END SUMMARY

1. ALL BUT A HANDFUL OF THE DELEGATE- EXPERTS WHO ATTENDED LAST WEEK' S UN/ OAU CONFERENCE HAVE NOW LEFT OSLO; THE CURRENT JUNIOR OFFICER CLASS OF THE NORWEGIAN MINISTRY, WHICH STAFFED THE CONFERENCE CENTER, HAS REVERTED TO ITS MORE USUAL OCCUPATIONS; FOLKETSHUS, THE CONFERENCE SITE, HAS BEEN TURNED BACK INTO THE FULL- TIME HEADQUARTERS OF THE NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION; AND THOSE WHO ATTENDED, MANAGED, OR OBSERVED THE WEEK- LONG CONFERENCE HAVE RENDERED THEIR VERDICTS ON THE RESULTS.

2. THE DELEGATE- EXPERTS THEMSELVES WERE ALMOST UNIFORMLY POSITIVE IN THEIR REACTIONS TO THE GATHERING. SOME, LIKE THE ALGERIANS, WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO ADD INTERNATIONAL ZIONISM TO THE DEMONOLOGY OF THE CONFERENCE, BUT NONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE REPORT, AND ALL APPEARED PLEASED WITH THE WAY THE CONFERENCE WENT. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR THE REPS OF THE VARIOUS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHICH ATTENDED. THEIR INITIAL REACTIONS, WE UNDERSTAND, WERE FILLED WITH A LARGE MEASURE OF CYNICISM THAT THIS WOULD BE SIMPLY ONE MORE TALK SESSION. AT THE END, MOST PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THEMSELVES HAD BEEN THE BIG GAINERS, AND THEIR LEADERS WERE QUICK TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS IN DISCUSSING THE CONFERENCE.

3. OAU LEADER SAHNOUN, WHO WAS THE MAIN BEHIND- THE- SCENES FORCE AT THE CONFERENCE, WAS BOUYANT IN DESCRIBING THE RESULTS AS " POSITIVE" AND " PRACTICAL", WHEN HE DISCUSSED THE GATHERING WITH AN EMBOFF. CONFERENCE PRES AALGAARD, UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS, AFRICAN DELEGATES, INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS, AND ARNE ARNESEN, THE CHIEF NORWEGIAN DELEGATE, USED THE SAME LANGUAGE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS.

4. IN ITS EDITORIAL ON THE CONFERENCE, WRITTEN BY ARNESEN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE LABOR PARTY DAILY ARBEIDERBLADET, WHICH HAD ENTHUSIAS-

TICALLY SUPPORTED THE CONFERENCE IDEA, LISTED FOUR MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS THE GATHERING HAD BROUGHT ABOUT. THE FIRST WAS THE FACT OF ITS BEING HELD, AND ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE; THIS GAVE PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IN A WAY THAT ORDINARY UN PROCEEDINGS AND OTHER GATHERINGS DO NOT (SAHNOUN MADE THE SAME POINT TO AN EMBOFF). SECOND, ARBEIDERBLADET (LIKE THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT) TOOK SPECIAL NOTE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY THE LEADERS OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHO PARTICIPATED ON THE SAME LEVEL AS OTHER DELEGATES, ADDING THAT IN THIS PARTICIPATION " THERE LIES A RECOGNITION OF THEM AS THE ACTUAL AND RIGHTFUL REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PEOPLES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA." THIRD, THE CONFERENCE PROVIDED " A NEW BASIS OF SUPPORT FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD FOR THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE." AND FOURTH, ARNESEN CITED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE " ACTION PROGRAM" IN THE CONFERENCE REPORT, SUGGESTING THAT THIS WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE UNGA-- EVEN BY THE THREE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH " BOYCOTTED" THE OSLO CONFERENCE.

5. CONTINUING, THE EDITORIAL SAID: " DEED MUST NOW FOLLOW WORDS," NOTING THAT THE CONFERENCE " PUTS NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES UNDER OBLIGATION... THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ACCEPT THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF MILITARY AID, WHICH THEY MUST CONSEQUENTLY GET FROM ELSEWHERE. BUT NORWAY MUST FOLLOW UP WITH OTHER ASSISTANCE AND FAR HIGHER GRANTS (THAN THE CURRENT FIVE MILLION KRONER) FOR THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS." FINALLY, THE WRITER URGED NORWAY AGAIN TO RAISE WITH ITS ALLIES THE QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL TO ENSURE THAT EQUIPMENT " WHICH IS DELIVERED TO PORTUGAL FOR ITS EUROPEAN DEFENSE" IS NOT DIVERTED " TO COLONIAL WARS."

6. MORGENBLADET, A CONSERVATIVE PAPER WHICH HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY CRITICAL OF THE CONFERENCE IDEA, REMAINED CRITICAL IN ITS SUMMING UP OF THE CONFERENCE IN ITS MONDAY EDITION AND IN ITS EDITORIAL COMMENT TODAY. AFTENPOSTEN, ALSO CONSERVATIVE AND NORWAY'S LARGEST PAPER, DELIVERED ITS MAJOR CRITICISM OF THE CONFERENCE A WEEK AGO, AND HAS NOT YET COMMENTED EDITORIALY ON THE RESULTS. WHEN IT DOES, IF IT DOES, WE ASSUME ITS COMMENTARY WILL FOLLOW THE LINES OF ITS PREVIOUS EDITORIAL (REF B).

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7. ASKED BY A DAGBLADET REPORTER ABOUT HIS PRE- CONFERENCE REMARK THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST CHANCE FOR FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, CONFERENCE PRES AALGAARD RESPONDED SOMEWHAT LESS APOCALYP-

TICALLY. AT THE CONFERENCE, HE SAID, THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAD DECLARED THAT THE TIME FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION HAS PASSED, THAT ARMED STRUGGLE IS THE ONLY WAY; " AND IT IS THE OUTLOOK OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS," HE CONCLUDED, " THAT WE MUST TAKE HEED OF." HOW THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES EVALUATE THIS, HOWEVER, " IS UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES."

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 EA-11 ACDA-19 MBFR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6555

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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8. OF SPECIAL INTEREST, PERHAPS, IS THE COMMENT BY SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS TO AN EMBOFF' S QUERY ABOUT HOW THE RESULTS MIGHT HAVE DIFFERED HAD THE US ATTENDED OFFICIALLY. THE OAU' S SAHNOUN WAS MOST EXPLICIT IN HIS REPLY, SUGGESTING THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN SEVERAL DIFFERENCES. FIRST, THE

CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE REMAINED A CLOSED GATHERING, AS THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE HAD EARLIER DECIDED. HE MOVED TO OPEN THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ONLY AFTER THE US HAD DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND, FEELING THAT HE WAS NO LONGER BOUND BY THE COMMITMENT TO US AND FEELING ALSO THAT OPEN MEETINGS WOULD ALLOW DELEGATES TO SOUND OFF BEFORE THE SERIOUS REPORT-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WRITING BEGAN. SECOND, HE SAID, US, UK, AND FRENCH PRESENCE " WOULD HAVE OPENED UP A WHOLE RANGE OF DIPLOMATIC MEASURES WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED, BECAUSE OF THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS THE THREE WESTERN POWERS MAINTAIN WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGAL."

9. COMMENTING ON THE SAME QUESTION, ONE OF THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WHO HAD BEEN CLOSEST TO THE CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS FOR THE LAST YEAR SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE THREE WESTERN COUNTRIES AT THE CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE MADE VERY LITTLE CHANGE AT ALL IN THE RESULT. ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES, HOWEVER, TOOK ANOTHER VIEW. ALTHOUGH NORWAY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE US TO ATTEND, ONE BY- PRODUCT OF THE WESTERN ABSENCE WAS THAT IT ENABLED THE RUSSIANS AND THE CHINESE " TO LIE LOW" (REF C) AND KEPT THE FOCUS ON THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES. THIS, HE OPINED, WAS A USEFUL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR THE AFRICANS, ESPECIALLY THE LEADERS OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHO WERE COMPELLED " TO LIMIT THEIR CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES TO PRACTICAL STEPS." OTHERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN DISPUTE THIS FINAL POINT, SUGGESTING THAT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS CAME WITH MODEST AIMS FOR ATTAINMENT AT THIS CONFERENCE AND WERE GENERALLY SURPRISED AT HOW FAR THEIR FELLOW CONFEREES, ESPECIALLY THE AUSTRALIANS, THE SCANDINAVIANS, AND THE AUSTRIANS, WERE PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE THEM. ROCKE

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